

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. An inhibitor of a Group I intron self-splicing reaction comprising an oligonucleotide having a polynucleotide sequence that binds to a 5' internal guide sequence of a precursor RNA containing a Group I intron, or to a portion thereof, wherein said oligonucleotide is capable of binding with the 5' internal guide sequence of the precursor RNA and of being *trans*-spliced to the 3' exon of the precursor RNA.
2. The inhibitor of Claim 1 wherein said oligonucleotide comprise deoxynucleotides, ribonucleotides, or a combination thereof, and said oligonucleotide comprises a 3' terminal ribonucleoside.
3. The inhibitor of Claim 1 wherein said oligonucleotide contains at least one N3' → P5' phosphoramidate or N3' → P5' thiophosphoramidate linkage.
4. The inhibitor of Claim 1 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises at least one polynucleotide sequence chosen from [SEQ ID No:1], [SEQ ID No:2], [SEQ ID No:3], and [SEQ ID No:9].
5. The inhibitor of Claim 1 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No:1 and wherein said precursor RNA is a precursor ribosomal RNA from *Pneumocystis carinii*.
6. The inhibitor of Claim 1 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises at least one polynucleotide sequence chosen from [SEQ ID No:2], [SEQ ID No:3], and [SEQ ID No:9] and wherein said precursor RNA is a precursor ribosomal RNA from *Candida albicans*.
7. A composition comprising a suicide inhibitor of Claim 1, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
8. A method of inhibiting self-splicing of a Group I intron comprising contacting a precursor RNA containing a Group I intron with an oligonucleotide, wherein said oligonucleotide *trans*-splices to a 3' exon sequence of said precursor RNA.

9. The method of Claim 8 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises deoxynucleotides, ribonucleotides, or a combination thereof, and said oligonucleotide comprises a 3' terminal ribonucleoside.

10. The method of Claim 8 wherein said oligonucleotide contains at least one N3' \rightarrow P5' phosphoramidate or N3' \rightarrow P5' thiophosphoramidate linkage.

11. The method of Claim 8 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises at least one polynucleotide sequence chosen from [SEQ ID No:1], [SEQ ID No:2], [SEQ ID No:3] and [SEQ ID No:9].

12. The method of Claim 8 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises the polynucleotide of SEQ ID No:1 and wherein said precursor RNA is a precursor ribosomal RNA from *Pneumocystis carinii*.

13. The method of Claim 8 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises at least one polynucleotide sequence chosen from [SEQ ID No:2], [SEQ ID No:3], and [SEQ ID No:9] and wherein said precursor RNA is a precursor ribosomal RNA from *Candida albicans*.

14. A method for inhibiting the growth of an organism transcribing a precursor RNA containing a Group I intron comprising contacting said organism with an amount of an oligonucleotide effective for growth inhibition, wherein said oligonucleotide is capable of being *trans*-spliced to a 3' exon sequence of said precursor RNA.

15. The method of Claim 14 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises deoxynucleotides, ribonucleotides, or a combination thereof, and said oligonucleotide comprises a 3' terminal ribonucleoside.

16. The method of Claim 14 wherein said oligonucleotide contains at least one N3' \rightarrow P5' phosphoramidate or thiophosphoramidate linkage.

17. The method of Claim 14 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises at least one polynucleotide sequence chosen from [SEQ ID No:1], [SEQ ID No:2], [SEQ ID No:3] and [SEQ ID No:9].

18. The method of Claim 14 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises the polynucleotide of SEQ ID No:1 and wherein said precursor RNA is a precursor ribosomal RNA from *Pneumocystis carinii*.

19. The method of Claim 14 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises at least one polynucleotide sequence chosen from [SEQ ID No:2], [SEQ ID No:3], and [SEQ ID No:9] and wherein said precursor RNA is a precursor ribosomal RNA from *Candida albicans*.

20. A method of designing an inhibitor of Group I intron splicing comprising choosing a nucleotide sequence that binds to a 5' internal guide sequence present in precursor RNA containing a Group I intron, or to a portion thereof, and preparing an oligonucleotide having the chosen sequence, wherein said oligonucleotide is capable of binding with the 5' internal guide sequence of the precursor RNA and of being *trans*-spliced to the 3' exon of the precursor RNA.

21. The method of Claim 20 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises deoxynucleotides, ribonucleotides, or a combination thereof, and said oligonucleotide comprises a 3' terminal ribonucleoside.

22. The method of Claim 20 wherein said oligonucleotide contains at least one N3' → P5' phosphoramidate or thiophosphoramidate linkage.